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Another interesting plant here was a very woolly thistle, which was a puzzler. I sent it to Dr. Watson, who says it is *Cnicus altissimus* Willd., var. *filipendulus* Gr., remarking that it was near *C. undulatus* Gr. The range given for this in the Synoptical Flora is Texas to Colorado. According to that it had strayed a considerable distance from its home.

Another plant was found the same forenoon, which is worth mentioning, namely *Salsola Kali*. It was very abundant, but apparently introduced, probably from the northwest, where, I believe, it is found.

As the Spirit Lake region is pretty well known to any who would be interested in Iowa flora, I will not describe it.

At the south end of Lake Okoboji the beach runs directly to the prairie. Walking back a few rods, I came to a patch of grass which I decided was *Agropyrum violaceum* Lange. But Dr. Vasey, on seeing the specimens, decided differently. He said it was *A. unilaterale* V. & S. *A. violaceum* had been admitted to the Iowa flora on some specimens contributed by Mr. R. I. Cratty, of Armstrong, Emmet county. I wrote to Mr. Cratty, who has contributed largely to the Iowa flora, and he very kindly sent me a specimen of his *A. violaceum*, which seems to be identical with *A. unilaterale*, in which case the former must be expunged from the list of Iowa plants and the latter added.

In speaking of reported Iowa plants, I refer to Prof. J. C. Arthur's "Contributions to the Flora of Iowa."

Iowa City, Iowa.

BRIEFER ARTICLES.

***Nonnea rosea*.**—Escaped from my garden, this has become rather abundant as a weed in the vicinity, and promises to be one of our earliest spring flowers. We have not had severe weather, but the thermometer has been so regularly below freezing point, that only yesterday (March 17), it was high enough to start chickweed and *Draba verna* into bloom. The *Nonnea* is also keeping company. Honey-bees are trying to glean something from all three, though, later in the season they neglect them for better fare.—THOMAS MEEHAN, *Germantown, Pennsylvania*.

***Dicentra stigmas* and stamens.**—When a half-developed flower-bud is examined the six stamens are seen to have their anthers upon a level with the capitate stigma. Soon after this, and before the petal-tips turn down, the anthers have dehisced and the pollen is in contact with the irregular and roughened surface of the swollen tip of the style. This tip is flat, and suggests the part of a watch key which is grasped by thumb and

finger in turning. Around this irregular and lenticular body the stamens are arranged with one at each narrow edge and two midway upon each side. The two stamens at the edges have each two lobes, while the other four are half stamens. Each pair of half stamens has the two anthers, that is, half anthers, so placed together as to seem like a single stamen. However, each has its filament, which starts from a higher point upon the receptacle than the full-sized stamen and then arches considerably below it. This is particularly evident in *Dicentra spectabilis*. When the petals are removed the stamens and pistil together have somewhat the appearance of a Jew's-harp. Each bow consists of a single whole stamen filament and the filament of a half stamen upon each side.

Transverse sections through the capitate stigma reveals the fact that there are, in addition to the large protuberances upon the edge of the stigma, a number of small ones over the sides of these protuberances. As the transverse sections show, these small projections extend into the cavities of the dehiscent anthers, and as the flower matures the stamens draw down, due to the peculiar arched shape of the filaments or from the prolongation of the style, or both. As a result, the rough surface of the stigma becomes the portion bearing the pollen at the time when the flower is ready for the visitation of insects.—BYRON D. HALSTED, *Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J.*

Erysimum cheiranthoides.—This crucifer, not listed in the Michigan catalogue of Wheeler and Smith, I found June 28, 1888, quite abundant on low, muddy ground, near the Au Sable river, Grayling. Although not far from a road, it appeared to be indigenous.

Prof. L. H. Bailey found it growing near Lansing about ten years ago.

C. K. Dodge found it near Port Huron last season, also.

These are the only known localities in the state.—G. H. HICKS, *Owosso, Mich.*

EDITORIAL.

AMERICANS are progressive. They do not fail to remind themselves of the fact often, and in the reiteration quite lose sight of the progress made by the rest of the world in lines little or not at all developed in this country. Why we have almost no botanical gardens, while in Europe all large institutions for higher education and many large cities consider them essential to full prosperity, is worth considering. It is not solely because we are a young nation, for Australia has gardens established in the early days of the colonies which, under the fostering care of municipal governments, have become spots of rare loveliness, and according to the estimate of the people are as useful and profitable as they are attract-